

Medal for extraordinary gallantry in action while on a combat mission. The incident took place on August 14, 1969 when Maj. Fulton was serving in the United States Air Force as a Forward Air Controller, FAC, while supporting classified combat operations in Laos during the Vietnam War. Approval was announced by the Department of the Air Force for the award of the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor, to Donald F. Fulton.

Don Fulton is a native of New York City, NY, and has lived in the Vacaville, CA, area since 1975. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in 1965.

As a captain in the U.S. Air Force, he served as a FAC while assigned to Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, TASS. On August 14, 1969, Captain Fulton was the pilot of a lightly armed observation aircraft (O-2) and was participating in aerial flight deep inside Laos in support of Military Assistance Command—Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group, MAC-V SOG, Command and Control Central (CCC). Operating under call sign Covey 538, Captain Fulton coordinated Tactical Air Support for an eight-man Special Operations Strategic Reconnaissance Team while it conducted Operation Sad Sam, a raid on a major North Vietnamese Army unit headquarters. Recon Team New York was subsequently heavily engaged by a North Vietnamese Infantry Regiment and was immobilized with casualties and surrounded at dusk in mountainous rain forest. With a low ceiling and heavy rain approaching, and no tactical air support immediately available, Captain Fulton, firing marking rockets and an M-16 rifle, made numerous aerobatic, treetop level attacks on the enemy forces. During these passes, he was subjected to heavy fire from small arms, 12.7mm heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenades and 23mm and 37mm antiaircraft weapons, inflicting substantial battle damage to his aircraft. His actions forestalled enemy attacks on the besieged Recon Team, until tactical air support could arrive. Subsequently, Captain Fulton directed the air assets in attacking the enemy and in conducting a night extraction of the Reconnaissance Team during a heavy rainstorm, while his fuel level dropped to near empty.

In his recommendation for the award of the Silver Star to Major Fulton, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Wolcott, U.S. Army, Ret., stated that the "operation resulted in the discovery of a major enemy headquarters and nearby main force bivouacs and fortifications, which were subjected to aerial attack and subsequently ground attack by an exploitation force from CCC, whereby the enemy sustained heavy losses and was forced to abandon the complex. The Sad Sam operation and subsequent ground operation caused the enemy to reinforce security in its sanctuary area at the expense of main force units, and its order of battle in South Vietnam was decremented."

Major Donald Fulton is also the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER LEWIS RICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Alexander Lewis Rice. Alex was born on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14, 2006, to his proud parents, Robert and Sarah Rice, of Chillicothe, Missouri. Alex entered the world at 9:33 p.m. at Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri, weighing a healthy 6 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 inches long.

Alex also has proud grandparents, Lewis and Kathy Rice, of Maryville, Missouri, and Kevin and Sandy Coan, of Omaha, Nebraska, to spoil him. Alex is also the nephew of Sarah and Travis Woodward, of Bowie, Maryland, Nathaniel Rice, of Maryville, Missouri, Brian and Carie Costanzo of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Thomas and Elle Coan of Abilene, Texas.

I find it quite appropriate that Alex was born on such a patriotic holiday as Flag Day considering that his father was one of my first interns while I served in the Missouri State Senate. I see great things in Alex's future considering his parents' and grandparents' great emphasis on family values, public service and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Alexander Lewis Rice. I wish Alex the best life has to offer, and I am proud to now serve him in the United States Congress.

A TIME OF HOPE FOR NAGORNO-KARABAGH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week I had the pleasure of meeting with Nagorno-Karabagh's Foreign Minister George Petrosian and National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghulian. I have long supported the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabagh and greatly admire the efforts of the people of this historically Armenian region to build democracy and a market economy in the face of hostility from Azerbaijan.

It is a time of hope for a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict that has plagued the South Caucasus for 15 years.

The Armenian and Azeri leadership have, for several years, been negotiating to turn a ceasefire into a more durable peace. It is a process that has been long, tiring and frustrating. I applaud the persistence and commitment of the Nagorno-Karabagh authorities and the government of Armenia and I hope that all of their efforts are slowly, but surely, paying off.

In the last week, the new U.S. Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza announced the framework of an agreement that Armenian and Azeri political leaders will soon discuss in an effort to settle the conflict once and for all. In a statement that was issued by the U.S. embassy in Yerevan yesterday, the Minsk Group's American, French and Russian co-chairs said the proposal envisages a self-

determination referendum to be held in Karabagh after the redeployment of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territories surrounding Karabagh.

I hope that this announcement will clear the way for a brighter future for the Karabagh people and for the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is a sad consequence of the war that Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh have been subjected to a cruel and illegal blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, a blockade that continues to undermine the prospects for peace.

Armenia and the government of Nagorno-Karabagh have persisted in looking for ways to ease regional tensions, but the Azeris have too often responded by walking away. It is also not helpful that Azerbaijan has persistently talked of a military build-up even as it ostensibly negotiates with the Karabagh and Armenia. Last December's desecration of Armenian khachars in Azerbaijan also poisoned the atmosphere surrounding the talks.

I am pleased that the Azeri hostility has not gone unnoticed by our government. Last Thursday, Deputy Assistant Secretary Bryza spoke to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In response to a question about whether the conflict could resume, he said that it is from the Azeri side "where you most often hear those sorts of threats." And in light of the oil revenues, he went on to say that "It's really quite unhelpful make statements that imply that this increased wealth is going to lead to purchases of arms and military threats."

In my meeting with them, I told Foreign Minister Petrosian and Speaker Ghulian how much I admire their commitment to peace and their leadership. Too many families have lost loved ones as a result of this conflict. It has been far too long that displaced refugees have been homeless.

We seem to be at a real turning point in the history of the Caucasus region and I am proud that the United States is playing a significant role in the peace process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congressman LIPINSKI to introduce the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation would set a date certain to end sewage dumping in America's largest supply of fresh water, the Great Lakes. More than 27 million Americans depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water. We need to put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply. Cities along the Great Lakes must become environmental stewards of our country's most precious freshwater ecosystem.

The Great Lakes Water Protection Act gives cities until 2026 to build the full infrastructure needed to prevent sewage dumping into the Great Lakes. Those who violate EPA sewage dumping regulations after that federal deadline will be subject to fines up to \$100,000 for every day they are in violation. These fines will go back into State clean water funds. From there, the funds will be spent on wastewater treatment options, with a special focus on greener solutions such as habitat protection and wetland restoration.